


liquid crystal display structure wherein supporting members which are located both within the display region and between a peripheral portion and the display region are designed to provide support for the display wherein a supporting height of the first and second portions of seal material is substantially the same. Applicant submits that the prior art references of record actually teach away from this inventive structure.

The primary reference upon which the Examiner relies in rejecting the claims is the Lagerwall reference, United States patent No. 6,184,967. Applicant submits that this reference teaches that the spacer height in the peripheral area is increased to thereby permit the radius of curvature of the voids to be greater within the active area of the display thereby lowering the energy of the voids. See, for example, column 10, last line through column 11, line 11. The prior art reference, accordingly, is actually directed to a much different structure wherein a supporting height of the first and second portions of seal material is not 2 substantially the same as now claimed. Indeed, the prior art actually teaches a structure which is significantly different than that claimed by Applicants. Accordingly, in light of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner now withdraw these rejections and allow all claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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1. A liquid crystal display apparatus comprising:

a<sup>1</sup> a liquid crystal panel having a pair of substrates facing each other; and

sub B<sub>1</sub> liquid crystal material sealed between said pair of substrates, said pair of substrates being sealed at a first seal portion which is located at a peripheral portion of said substrates and also being sealed at a second seal portion located outside of an effective picture element area separated from the peripheral portion and further wherein a supporting height of the first seal portion and the second seal portion is substantially the same.

4. A manufacturing method of a liquid crystal display apparatus having a liquid crystal display panel, comprising the steps of:

a<sup>2</sup> superimposing a pair of facing substrates to form said liquid crystal display panel; and

sub B<sub>1</sub> injecting liquid crystal display material between said pair of facing substrates, wherein

a first portion of seal material is coated on a periphery of said pair of substrates, and a second portion of seal material is coated at portions located outside of an effective picture element area of said liquid crystal display panel and further wherein a supporting height of the first and second portions of seal material is substantially the same.